

India is the world's largest producer of mangos, but accounts for less than one percent of the global mango trade, partly because of packaging practices, as in the photo, that can't keep the fruit fresh and luscious as it travels long distances. As part of a U.S. effort to help small farmers get their fresh produce to more markets and make better deals for themselves, the U.S. Agency for International Development sponsored a conference in Mumbai in September to showcase practical and innovative mango packaging solutions. Growers, traders, exporters, distributors, retail chain operators and packaging industry representatives discussed prototypes, food safety, quality standards and international practices that add to product value.



RAJESH KUMAR SINGH © AP/WIDEWORLD

NEWS SCAPE



RONEN ZILBERMAN © AP/WIDEWORLD

These are Indian Army Gorkha Regiment soldiers but that jungle is on the Hawaiian Island of Oahu. The 140 Indian soldiers and 20 Indian Air Force commandos spent 18 days practicing counter-insurgency skills with their counterparts from the U.S. 25th Infantry Division at the Schofield Army Base in Wahiwa, Hawaii, in September. The Indian Army's largest joint exercise on foreign soil was meant to help Indian and American soldiers learn to work together. They engaged in face-to-face and side-by-side drills in mock urban and jungle settings.

A tul Gawande, an Indian American surgeon, professor and writer, has been granted half a million dollars, to spend any way he wants over the next five years. He is one of this year's 25 winners of the so-called "genius awards" given annually by the Chicago-based MacArthur Foundation. The grants encourage creative achievers to find out what more they can accomplish if they don't have to worry about money for awhile. Gawande, 40, was born in the United States to Indian immigrant parents. He is an assistant professor of surgery at Harvard Medical School and Brigham & Women's Hospital in Boston and also a *New Yorker* magazine staff writer who searches for ways to improve surgical safety.



ROSE LINCOLN/Harvard News Office



T.G. VENKATESH

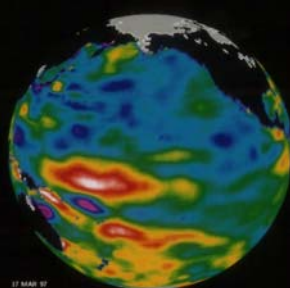
Ambassador David C. Mulford examines an ancient palm-leaf manuscript, one of several rare books and writings that will be conserved through a \$35,000 grant to the United Theological College in Bangalore. The first part of the grant from the Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation was presented to the college principal, Rev. O.V. Jathanna in September. The funds will also allow the information on the manuscripts to be converted into microfiche for use by researchers.



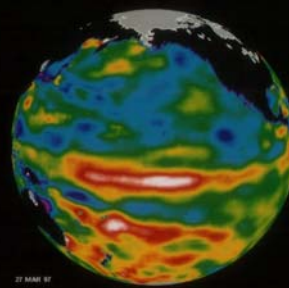
VIKAS NARULA

The United States will give \$4.17 million to the World Health Organization for research and state level implementation of the national disease control program to fight tuberculosis, according to an agreement signed in September by Ambassador David C. Mulford (center) and Salim Habayeb (right), the WHO representative to India, in the presence of Dr. L.S. Chauhan (left), director of the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Program, whose work is supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development. The United States has already invested \$40 million to combat tuberculosis in India, where 1,000 people die each day from this infectious, but curable, disease. In fact, tuberculosis is the leading cause of death among Indians aged 18-59 and the economic cost is estimated at \$3 billion per year.

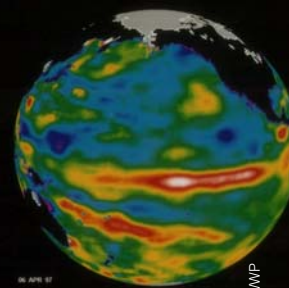
A team of Indian and American researchers have unraveled a previously unknown connection between the Indian monsoon and the weather phenomenon El Niño, a disruption of the ocean atmosphere system in the tropical Pacific Ocean. El Niño is indicated by the red and white areas in the photograph. Published in the online edition of *Science*, the report by K. Krishna Kumar of the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology in Pune, researchers at the University of Colorado, Columbia University and the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shows that droughts in India are more likely when the warmest sea surface temperatures occur in the central part of the Pacific Ocean. Taking this factor into account could significantly improve monsoon forecasts.



22 MARCH 97



22 MARCH 97



06 APRIL 97

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